

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION INDICATORS present information on the health of a local environment. Focus on quality of water, solid waste, and acres of open space offers data of primary interest to the general public.

Water Resource Assessments: The Illinois EPA annually collects chemical, physical, biological, habitat and toxicity data on rivers and streams, inland lakes, Lake Michigan and groundwater to satisfy reporting requirements found in Section 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The primary purpose of the Section 305(b) process is to provide for an assessment of the overall water quality conditions of Illinois waters. <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/water-quality/index.html>

Water quality conditions are assessed in terms of the degree to which waters attain "beneficial uses," also called "designated uses." Pollution control programs are designed to protect designated individual uses, including aquatic life, swimming, drinking water, recreation, secondary contact and indigenous aquatic life and fish consumption. Each state has the responsibility to set water quality standards that protect and assess attainment of these beneficial uses. In Illinois, the Illinois Pollution Control Board is responsible for establishing water quality standards.

Results of these assessments made in recent years can be found in a comprehensive Illinois Water Quality Report and associated Illinois Water Quality Information Mapping Tool; summary Condition of Illinois Water Resources reports; and various Maps and Graphs.

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/water-quality/index.html>

Annual Landfill Capacity Report Since its inception in 1970, the Illinois EPA has overseen the development and operation of a productive system of modern sanitary landfills. The Agency continues to ensure that these facilities meet the strictest disposal standards in history, and that they are engineered to be fully protective of human health and the environment, especially where it concerns any possibility of groundwater contamination. This link includes annual reports from 1994 (Eighth Annual Report) until 2009 (Twenty-Third)

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/landfill-capacity/index.html>

The Prairie Research Institute (originally the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability (INRS)) was created in July of 2008 to house four state scientific surveys — Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS), the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS), the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS), and the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) -- as a group under the auspices of the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#). Then in 2010, the Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program (ITARP) became the fifth division under the new name of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS), further expanding the Institute's research and service capabilities. The Surveys

provide data about the state's climate, water, geology, and natural history and support basic and applied research on its natural resources.

Prairie Research Institute: <http://www.prairie.illinois.edu/>

INHS: <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/>

ISGS: <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/>

ISWS: <http://www.isws.illinois.edu/>

ISTC: <http://www.istc.illinois.edu/>

ISAS: <http://www.isas.illinois.edu/>

To learn “where we are and whither we are tending,” the Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP) at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources developed the data collection tools and programs needed to monitor trends in Illinois ecosystems. Over the past several years, the CTAP team has completed an atlas of Illinois land cover, an inventory of resource rich areas, 30 regional watershed assessments, and several years of ecosystem monitoring. The team consists of staff from IDNR’s Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, the Illinois Natural History Survey, State Geological Survey, State Water Survey, Illinois State Museum, and Illinois Waste Management and Research Center. Also contributing to this effort are hundreds of Illinois citizen scientists working through the EcoWatch Network.

<http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/ctap>

Energy Information Administration (EIA) provides a wide range of information and data products covering energy production, stocks, demand, imports, exports, and prices; and prepares analyses and special reports on topics of current interest. It is especially useful for information about energy use by households and specific industries, the environmental impact of energy (greenhouse gases, voluntary reporting, power plant emissions, etc.), and for statistics about renewable energy.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

Scorecard is a resource for information about pollution problems and toxic chemicals with data pulled from U.S. EPA and Census. Discussion of data sources is at <http://scorecard.org/about/txt/data.html>.

Envirofacts searches EPA data sets for environmental information for particular locations. Information about the data is at:

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/qmr.html>.

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/>